

Amendments to the Claims:

1 (currently amended): A flexible ladder comprising at least two spaced flexible vertical members, a plurality of rigid horizontal support platforms, each support platform having an opening at each end adapted to receive one of said vertical members and a stop member encircling each of said flexible vertical members thereby providing a downward stop for each step, wherein the stop member is a length of heat-shrinkable tubular sleeving positioned on said flexible vertical member and wherein the support platform is selected from the group consisting of a dowel, a length of plastic, PVC or metal tubing and a wooden or synthetic slat.

2 (previously canceled)

3 (previously canceled)

4 (original): A flexible ladder according to claim 1 wherein the flexible vertical member is selected from the group consisting of a rope, nylon cord, a strap, a cable, a chain and a length of flexible material.

5 (previously amended): A flexible ladder according to claim 4 wherein the horizontal support platform is a wooden dowel and the vertical member is a length of rope.

6 (currently amended) A flexible ladder climbing apparatus for a playground comprising at least three ropes and a plurality of rigid platform steps held in position on the ropes by a thermoplastic sleeve that is heat shrunk around the rope.

7 (previously withdrawn): A method of assembling a flexible ladder, said method comprising sequentially threading a flexible vertical member through a bore in a step and then a heat-shrinkable tubular sleeve until a desired ladder length is

achieved and then applying heat to shrink the sleeve thereby preventing the step from moving on the rope in response to downward pressure.